Attorney Docket No.: 14017-0009US1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 10/552,914 Examiner: McGarry, Sean

Filed : October 13, 2005 Conf. No. : 6907

Title : RNA INTERFERENCE COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION OF PING XIN UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131

I, Ping Xin, hereby declare as follows:

- 1. I am an inventor of currently pending claims 160-174 of the above-referenced patent application.
- 2. In an Office Action dated January 6, 2009, claims 160-162 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nilsen *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,013,447) in view of Taira *et al.* (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2004/0002077).
 - 3. The Taira *et al.* reference lists its filing date as November 27, 2002.
- 4. Prior to November 27, 2002, and thus necessarily before the filing date of the Taira *et al.* reference, Gary A. Clawson, Wei-Hua Pan, and I worked together in this country to complete the conception of the invention recited in claims 160-174 of the above-referenced patent application, as evidenced by a copy of pages from my laboratory notebook (attached as Exhibit A), and Gary A. Clawson, Wei-Hua Pan, and I worked diligently to constructively reduce said invention to practice. The dates on the attached notebook pages, all of which are prior to November 27, 2002, have been blacked out.

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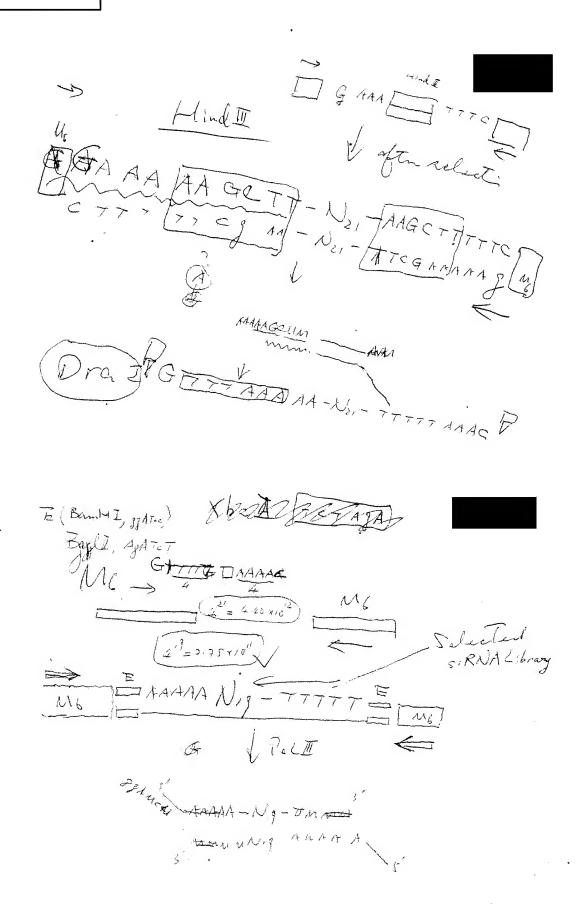
- 5. Pages 1 and 2 of Exhibit A depict a schematic for selection of siRNA molecules from an siRNA random library using random 21-mers, and page 3 of Exhibit A depicts a schematic for short hairpin RNA (shRNA) library selection, a schematic for construction of the shRNA library and a method for detection of shRNA using GFP. Pages 1 and 2 of Exhibit A are comparable to Figures 20 and 21 of Applicants' specification, and page 3 is comparable to Figures 25 and 26. A copy of published Figures 20, 21, 25 and 26 are attached as Exhibit B.
- 6. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patents issued thereon.

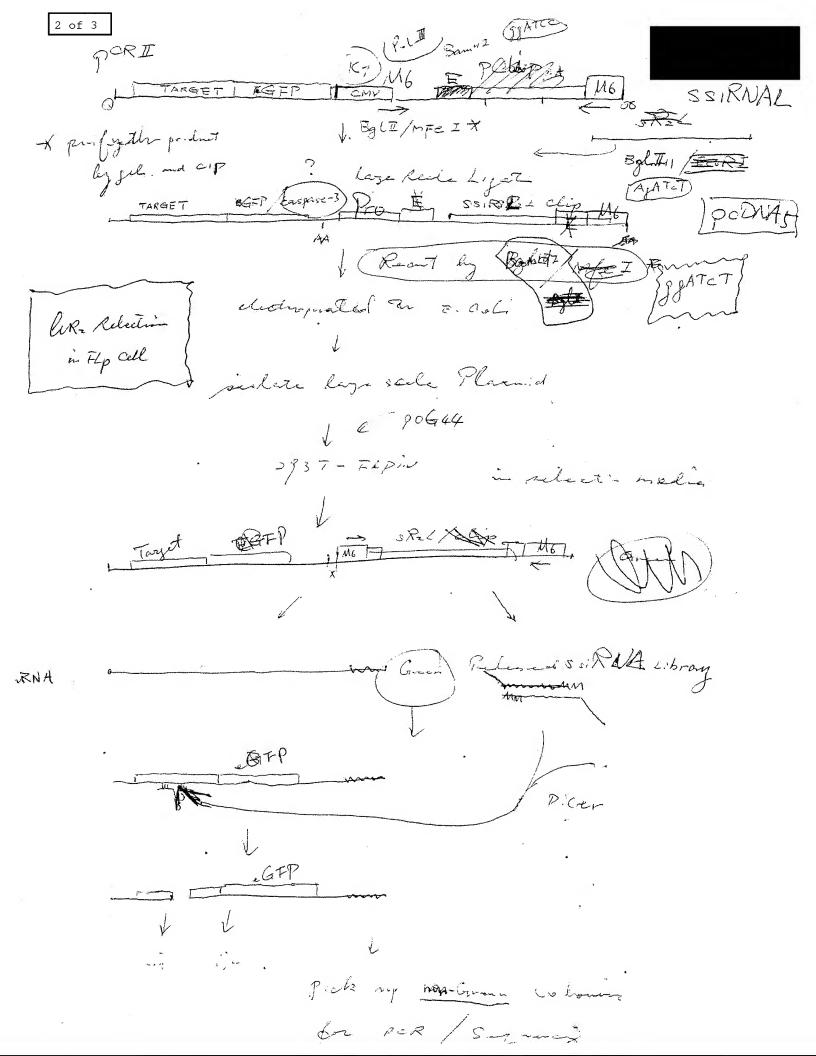
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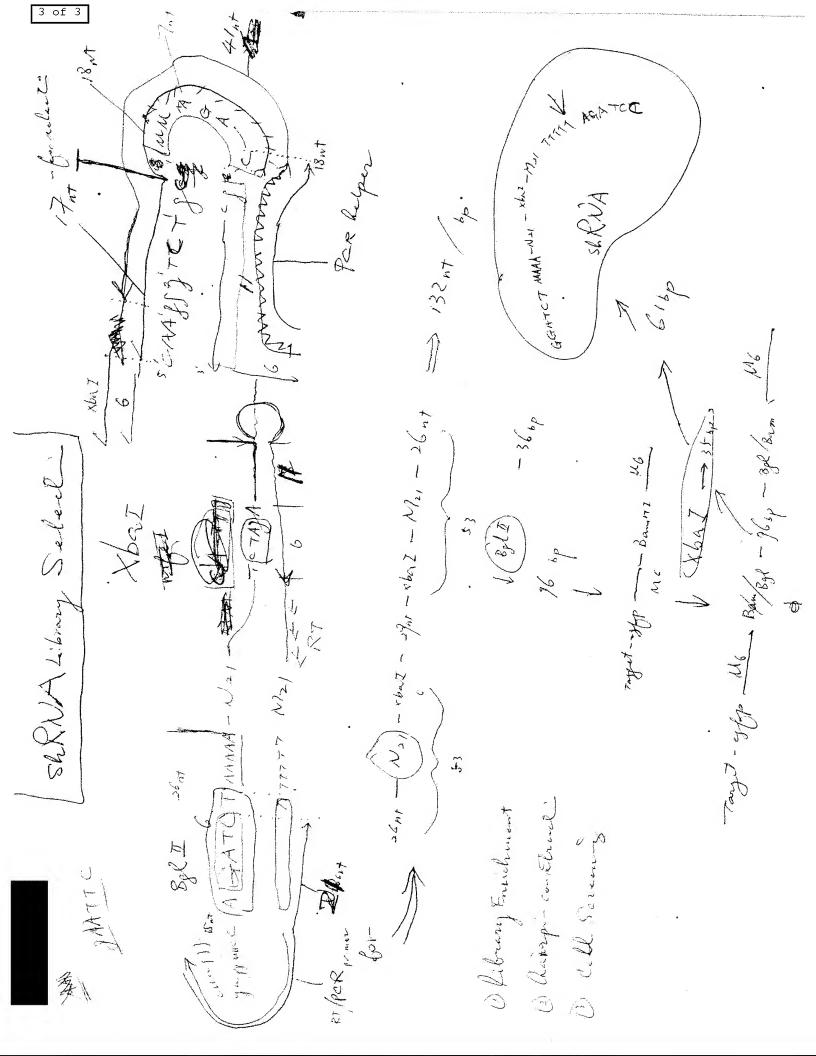
Date

Ping Xin

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3'-UUUUU-e21-AAAAAUCUAGG-5' S'-GGATCTAAAAA-X21-TITITAGATCC-3' 5'-GGAUCUAAAAA-E21-UUUUU-3' |GGATCTAAAAA-E21-TTTTTAGATCC| |CCTAGATTTTT-e21-AAAAATCTAGG| H1 Promoter Screening in Flp-In 293 Cells DICER 3 ← Inserts FIGURE 20 GGATCC CCTAGG BamHT (a) Transcription c. PCR/Sequence 5'-E21-UU-3' 3'-UU-e21-5' V6 Promoter A. Construction of Expression B. Target Cassette <u>C</u> eGEP

FIGURE 21

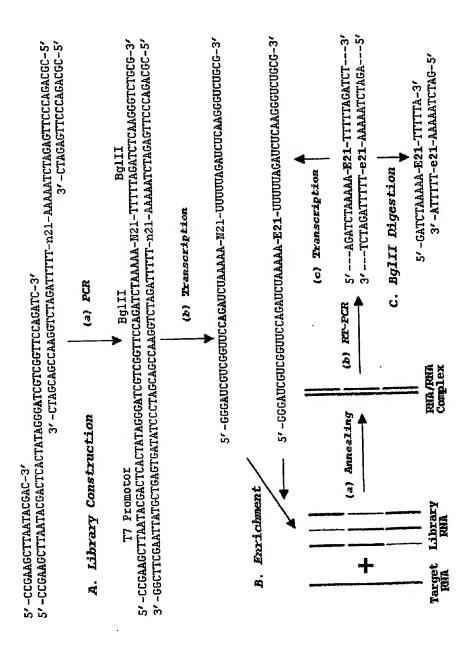
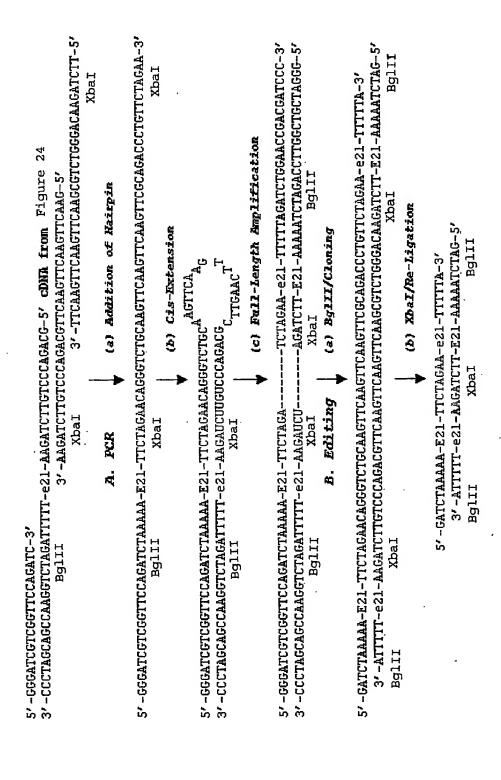


FIGURE 25



S'-GGATCTAAAAA-X21-TTCTAGAA-Y21-TTTTTAGATCC-3' S'-GGAUCUAAAAAE21UU ' 1 3'-UUUUUE21AA _G GGATCTAAAAAE21TTCTAGAAe21TTTTTAGATCC |CCTAGATTTTTTe21AAGATCTTE21AAAAATCTAGG H1 Promoter B. Screening in Flp-In 293 Cells DICER 9 - Inserts U6 Promoter (a) Transcription 5' -E21UU-3' 3'-We21-5' Sequence A. Construction of Expression C. PCR Target Cassette Ç

FIGURE 26